

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 00776 040840Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 040730Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7530

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0776

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, YE
SUBJECT: PROPOSED NEW YAR AMBASSADOR TO U.S.: YAHYA MUTAWAKKIL

REF: A. SANA 0561; B. STATE 050447

1. FOLLOWING RESPONSE KEYED TO DEPARTMENT'S INQUIRIES
PARA 1 REFTEL B.
A) MUTAWAKKIL WAS DEPUTY RPT DEPUTY TO SUPREME
COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES IN 1967.
B) WE DO NOT HAVE ACCURATE INFO MUTAWAKKIL'S SCHOOLING
IN USSR ALTHOUGH BELIEVE HE STUDIED RUSSIAN AND AT
INFANTRY COLLEGE (MOSCOW) BETWEEN 1962 AND 1965.
C) HAVING BEEN DUMPED UNCERIMONIOUSLY BY HAMDI IN
JULY 1975 AS MEMBER OF COMMAND COUNCIL AND AS
MIN INTERIOR, AND -- GIVEN HIS INTELLIGENCE,
ADMINISTRATIVE SKILL, CHARISMA AND STRONG TRIBAL
FOLLOWING -- MUTAWAKKIL MUST BE CONSIDERED ONE OF
HAMDI'S LEADING RIVALS AND ONE OF FIGURES HAMDI REMAINS
MOST WARY OF. HE IS AN ACTIVE HAMDI OPPONENT IN SAME
SENSE AS FORMER PRIMIN MUHSIN AL-AYNI OR FORMER
DEPUTY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MUJAHID ABU
SHUWARAB, WITH BOTH OF WHOM MUTAWAKKIL HAS LONG
HAD CLOSE CONTACTS, ALONG WITH HASHID LEADER,
SHAYKH ABDULLA HUSAYN AL-AHMAR. (HE WAS OFTEN
WEEN WITH AL-AHMAR DURING THIS FALL'S "TURKI AFFAIR".)
STILL, THERE IS NO REPEAT NO FIRM EVIDENCE CONNECTING
MUTAWAKKIL AND VARIOUS ABU LUHUMS IN INCIPIENT
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PAGE 02 SANA 00776 040840Z

"COUP PLOT" OF ONE MONTH AGO. TO BE SURE, MUTAWAKKIL

IS PROUD AND AMBITIOUS MAN WHO WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE
DISPLEASED TO SEE HAMDI REMOVED FROM POWER. WE GUESS HE IS
SUFFICIENTLY POLITICALLY ASTUTE TO WANT TO KEEP HIMSELF
SAFE DISTANCE AT THIS TIME FROM BOTH HAMDI'S
AND AL-AYNI GROUP AT LEAST WHILE HAMDI'S DOMESTIC
POSITION AND SUADI SUPPORT ARE SO FIRM. A WASHINGTON
ASSIGNMENT WILL PROBABLY SUIT HIM IDEALLY IN THIS
REGARD, AND WHILE HE WILL NO DOUBT BE CAPABLE AND ACTIVE
ENVOY, HE WILL KEEP A WEATHER EYE ON YEMENI POLITICS.
D) NO PHOTO OF MUTAWAKKIL PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. WE WILL
ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE SNAPSHOT IF MUTWAKKIL PAYS COURTESY
CALL ON AMBASSADOR PRIOR DEPARTURE FOR THE
UNITED STATES. AS PHOTO DEVELOPING FACILITIES NO
LONGER AVAILABLE AT EMBASSY AND GIVEN ABOMINABLE
QUALITY COMMERCIAL RESULTS, POST WILL POUCH NEGATIVE
TO DEPARTMENT FOR DEVELOPING.

2. EMBASSY WILL DRAW TOGETHER MORE DETAILED GENERAL
BIO ON MUTAWAKKIL DURING NEXT WEEK AND CABLE DATA
TO DEPARTMENT BEFORE MARCH 15.
RANSOM

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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